

EGYPT ON THE BRINK

Christians targeted in Egyptian civil violence

CAIRO (BP and local reports) — Christians in Egypt are bearing the brunt of violence as supporters of ousted President Mohammed Morsi, for years a prominent figure in the radical Muslim Brotherhood movement before his election in 2012, have begun an intense campaign to retaliate against a deadly crackdown by government security forces.

Morsi was removed from office and arrested by the politically powerful Egyptian Army in early July. Although democratically elected last year, Morsi was seen by critics as moving the country toward a strict Islamist state. Widespread protests and violence continue throughout the country, with nearly 700 people reported dead and more than 3,700 injured.

The Muslim Brotherhood previously had warned that if government forces attacked its protesters, they would retaliate by attacking the country's minority Christian population. Nearly

see BRINK on p. 4

CHURCHES TORCHED — A screenshot from a video posted on Facebook by the pastor of First Baptist Church in Cairo, Egypt, shows the smoldering ruins of Beit Mazar Baptist Church in Minya, Egypt. The church was attacked and burned during nationwide violence on August 14. (BP image)

Serviceman penalized for keeping views silent

SAN ANTONIO (BP) — U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Phillip Monk is in a fight for his career — not about anything he said, but what he didn't say.

He was told by his commanding officer on Aug. 9 to clear out his office at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. "It's all because he didn't say anything wrong. He thought it," said Steven Branson, pastor of Village Parkway Church in San Antonio.

Monk, his wife, and their three teenage sons faithfully attend services each Sunday for two years, the pastor said.

At issue is Monk's refusal to reveal his personal views regarding homosexual marriage to his commanding officer. According to a Fox News report, the lesbian commander pressed Monk about his views on the issue.

Fox reported, "She said, 'Sgt. Monk, I need to know if you can, as my first sergeant, if you can see discrimination if somebody says that they don't agree with homosexual marriage.'" Monk understood Air Force policy demands silence from homosexual detractors.

"She got angrier and angrier with him," Branson said, "so he got fired for something she thinks he believes."

Senior pastors invited to national call to prayer

SOUTHLAKE, Texas (BP and local reports) — A Mississippi Baptist pastor is among a group of 47 Southern Baptist pastors inviting senior pastors to participate in A Call to Pray for Revival and Awakening on Sept. 30-Oct. 1, in Southlake, Henderson



Chip Henderson, senior pastor of Pinelake Church in Brandon, is joining Ronnie Floyd, senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, and the others in announcing the 24-hour event.

A CALL TO PRAY for Revival and Awakening A Gathering for Senior Pastors

Hilton Dallas/Southlake Town Square, Southlake, Texas
September 30 pm - October 1 Noon, 2013
15 Minutes From DFW Airport - Space is Limited

Floyd said in an Aug. 14 written statement, "On behalf of our invitation team, I am inviting you to join us in a prayer gathering of senior pastors from all sizes of churches across America, for one purpose: praying together for revival and awakening!"

"We will focus on praying for

pastors, local churches and our nation to experience a mighty move of God that will be a catalyst for revival and awakening."

The team of pastors has committed to attend the event in its entirety, Floyd said. "This is not a 'come and go' event or a place to 'come and be seen,' nor is it

a denominational or political meeting. It is a serious spiritual experience of prayer with pastors nationally. Due to our commonality of need, we are focusing on Southern Baptist pastors."

Those not attending the event should pray nonetheless, Floyd said. "Pray for us in that 24-hour period of time," Floyd wrote in a letter to Baptist convention state executives. "We are in [a] desperate time. All of us want to see our pastors, churches and nation experience a mighty move of God."

Those also serving on the invitation team with Mississippi connections include:

■ Eric Thomas, former senior pastor of First Church, Vicksburg,

see PRAY on p. 7

Inside this

Directions

Sunday School
lessons

Editorial

Bibliocipher

How to Become
a Christian

Revivals &
Homecomings

The Baptist
Children's Village 6

Classifieds 5

SEP 10 2013



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

More than Egypt

As these comments are being written, the country of Egypt is uncontrollably afire both literally and figuratively. This crucial Middle East country has for years been a strong American ally but as it hurtles rapidly toward civil war and anarchy, much more is at stake than most of us understand as we sit in our living rooms and watch 20-second videos from the body-littered, burning streets of Cairo.

Most importantly, Egypt is one of the opening battles in the latest war for control of the Middle East and eventually the world by Muslim extremists. They have made no secret of their plans to wipe out the nation of Israel and exterminate Christianity as they move forward. In Egypt of late, they have proven they mean what they say.

In the widening violence spurred by the early July removal from office and arrest of President Mohamed Morsi, an Islamist and leader of the radical Muslim Brotherhood for years before his election, by the Egyptian Army, Christians have been the explicit focus of extremists' anger as never before.

"Those are the hardest days we've ever witnessed," one Christian leader who was not identified for security purposes told Open Doors, an organization serving the persecuted church, as quoted by Baptist Press. "The peaceful Egypt is now soaked into violence, hatred, and desire [for] revenge," the leader said.

The leader described how a ten-year-old Christian girl was stalked and murdered on her way home from a Bible study. Other reports indicate that Christian churches, businesses, and homes are being systematically destroyed.

MidEast Christian News (MCN), an independent news service quoted by Baptist Press, reported on several of the attacks. In one instance, Islamists stormed the St. George Diocese in Sohag, setting fire to the church, looting its contents, and assaulting priests inside. Other extremists prevented a fire truck from extinguishing the blaze.

In another MCN report quoted by Baptist Press, Father Selwanes Lofti, priest of St.

Mary and St. Abraam Church, told MCN how Islamists torched several historic church buildings. "They stormed the monastery, setting areas on fire as they went, including the historical St. Mary Church, St. George Church, and St. Antony Church."

As the Christian body count in Egypt goes up and more churches come down, there can be no doubt about the aim of the Islamist movement worldwide.

Secondly, the political realities of a potential Islamist victory in Egypt are immense. Egypt controls the all-important Suez Canal. A quick and simple Internet study of the Suez Canal should convince anyone of its critical importance to world stability and the projection of U.S. military and diplomatic power.

In addition, if Egypt is lost to Islamic extremists, look for other Middle East countries to fall as the extremists foment violence and insurrection in those countries from their base in Egypt. That's already happening from terrorist bases in countries such as Iran and Syria, where national governments are clandestinely involved.

Sadly, the Obama administration is averting its gaze from the plight of persecuted Christians in Egypt and elsewhere. As Christian pastors continue to be tortured in Iran's most vile prisons, the U.S. State Department meekly expresses "concern" for the events in Egypt.

"This can only mean [the administration] is either unwilling to use or has lost all leverage with Egypt's military..." observed Nina Shea, former chair of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom and currently director of the Hudson Institute's Center for Religious Freedom in Washington, D.C.

"Led by the Muslim Brotherhood, and joined by various other Islamist groups, some hoisting Al Qaeda flags, a ruthless campaign of religious cleansing, of Islamist 'purification,' is well underway in Egypt," she said. "As jihad has come to the Arab world's largest country, our foreign policy leaders and the press ignore this turn of events at our peril."

We'd best wake up and pay attention.

The blessings of Miss. BSU

One of the treasures of Mississippi Baptists is the ministry of the Baptist Student Union (BSU) on the various college campuses.

Thousands of students have been involved in this wonderful ministry over the past 50-60 years. Through BSU, students have discovered the need for and the opportunities to do ministry as a part of everyday life. They have learned how to do ministry as they literally get hands-on training. Whether they are involved in tutoring children at a local apartment complex, leading in a weekly Backyard Bible Club, or leading a youth retreat for a local church youth group, they are encouraged by their BSU director and fellow students to let the Holy Spirit use them to meet needs. The theme of "Every Christian a Minister" has always been a foundation stone of BSU.

God has also used BSU to challenge students in the area of missions. Students involved in BSU have been doing missions for a long time. Short-term mission trips, local mission projects, BSU summer and semester missions, and Christmas in China are all a regular part of any BSU program.

All a BSU Director has to do is share the need, and students will respond with a willingness to meet that need. They will give money. They will work as part of a fund-raising effort. Some will go as missionaries to minister and share the love of Christ. Going may mean one or two weeks of service, eight to ten weeks of service, or even a semester of service. Many BSU students have been ready to step forward to say, "Here am I, send me."

When a person studies the ministry of Baptist Student Union, it will be very apparent that the BSU director and the BSU leadership team are seeking balance. They try to balance spiritual growth activities with outreach and ministry activities. BSU leaders want to offer the typical student opportunities to worship, fellowship, and be involved in small group Bible study and discipleship activities — but on the other hand, they want to see that same student involved in personal evangelism, ministry, and missions.

BSU seeks to help students see the need for balance in their individual spiritual lives as they are daily being conformed to the image of Christ.

Every BSU director in the state of Mississippi can testify that a student who gets involved in BSU and takes advantage of the opportunities offered there will be a better



Guest opinion

with Wayne Vandiver

churchman when he/she has graduated, gotten a job, and is living in the next phase of life. Many of these students will be serving in local churches in leadership positions. They will be the church members who are not content to warm a pew but are actively engaged in ministry and discipleship.

They will be the kind of church leaders who dream big. They will not be content to just get by but will seek to go beyond the call of duty.

The question could be asked, "Why do these former BSUs seem to just see a need and automatically seek to meet it?" The answer is that they feel comfortable doing so because of the practice they got through their BSU involvement. Most students will have had two to five years experience in doing ministry through BSU. On-the-job training is not a new concept at a Baptist Student Union.

Many Mississippi Baptists can testify to all the wonderful Christian friends they made when they got involved in BSU on their college campus. They can share about great times of sharing and caring with all these wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ. Even people who never got involved in BSU will testify to what a wonderful ministry it is.

The BSUs of Mississippi are all available to minister in any way possible to the people and churches in their respective areas. Most BSUs provide various kinds of ministry teams that are available upon request. Singing groups, drama teams, clown teams, DiscipleNow teams, lock-in teams, youth revival teams, childcare teams, evangelism teams, and fellowship/leadership teams are just a few of the resources provided to local churches. Students also team up to do Backyard Bible Clubs, tutor children, and minister in local nursing homes, food banks,

see VANDIVER on p. 7

THE BaptistRecord

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Dwayne Parker, Flora Paul Sims, Pontotoc; Barry Burris, Terry Carl White, Meridian; Billie Buckley, Peta Russell Mord, Sturgis

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and address changes to: The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org



VOLUME 137 • NUMBER 33 • ISSN-0005-5778

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Commission: Preaching about candidates should not bring on tax scrutiny

WASHINGTON (BP) — Preachers should be free from Internal Revenue Service scrutiny even when speaking about political candidates, a 14-member commission has recommended in a report released Aug. 14.

The commission, created by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability at the request of U.S. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, proposed a number of tax-related recommendations to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Treasury Department in its 60-page report.

The Commission on Accountability and Policy for Religious Organizations stated that its members and 66 others who served on three panels created by the commission had "much accord" that "a member of the clergy should be permitted to say whatever he or she believes is appropriate in the context of a religious worship service without fear of government reprisal, even when such communications include content related to political candidates."

The commission added that "comparable latitude should exist for secular nonprofit organizations."

The "communications" noted by the commission should be within "the ordinary course of a 501(c)(3) organization's regular and customary religious, charitable, educational, scientific, or other [tax]-exempt-purpose activities... so long as such communications do not involve the disbursement of tax-deductible funds."

Expenditure of tax-exempt donations by religious and other 501(c)(3) organizations for political campaign activities "would likely have a deleterious impact on the effectiveness and credibility of the nonprofit sector," the commission stated, noting "broad agreement" by its members and those on its panels.

William Townes Jr., the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's vice president for convention finance, is among the commission's 14 members, along with Richard Hammar, a tax expert who prepares a yearly tax guide for GuideStone Financial Resources of the SBC.

The commission is chaired by Michael Batts, a CPA who is a former chairman of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). Stephen Douglass, president of Campus Crusade for Christ (Cru), is among others on the commission.

It is "both disturbing and chilling that the federal government regulates the speech

of religious organizations and other organizations dedicated to improving the lives of people," Batts noted in a three-page introduction to the report.

"The prohibition against nonprofits' support or opposition to political candidates is 'the only law of its type on the books... that allows the Internal Revenue Service to evaluate the content of a sermon delivered by a member of the clergy,' Batts wrote, and 'the only law that could cause a church to lose its federal tax exemption based on the words spoken by its leaders in a worship service.'"

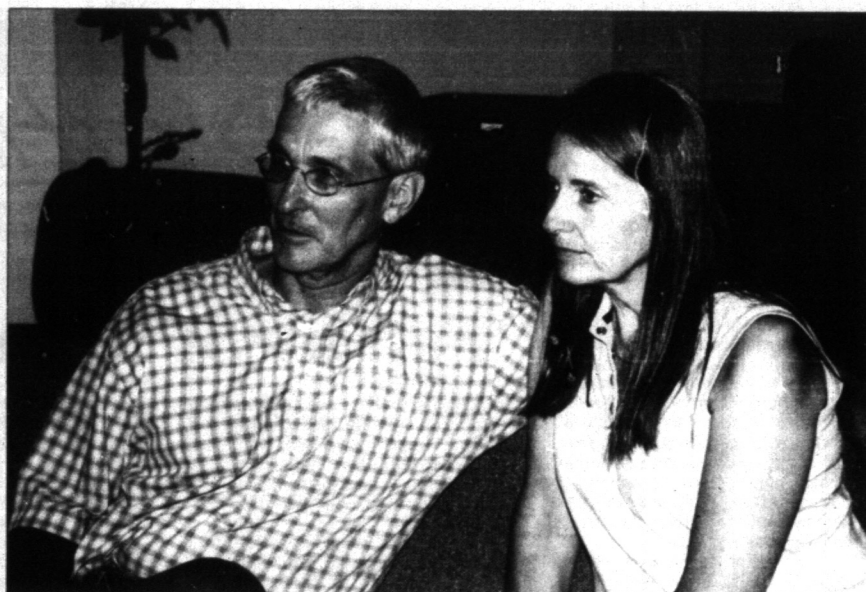
Federal officials "know instinctively that the law, as currently interpreted and applied, is problematic — which is why the law is largely unenforced in some respects and inconsistently enforced in others," Batts wrote. The practical effect of the law's vagueness, he noted, "is to chill free speech — often in the context of exercising religion."

"Many 501(c)(3) organizations engage regularly in communications that the IRS says are prohibited, and there are no consequences," Batts wrote. "Yet, the IRS does enforce the law on occasion, in a variety of ways, giving rise to understandable claims of selective or inconsistent application of the law."

Russell D. Moore, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, in comments to Baptist Press about the commission's report, said, "While I don't think a church normally should endorse candidates for office from the pulpit, that's only because I believe the mission of the church ought to stand prophetically distant from political horse-trading."

"That's a matter of gospel prudence, though, not a matter of legal right and wrong. A congregation should decide when to speak and what to say. Such decisions shouldn't be dictated by bureaucrats at the IRS or anywhere else. The commission is right that the chilling of the speech of churches is easily abused by politicians. That's why I support the freedom of speech for churches and pastors, even when they say more or less than what I would say from the pulpit."

The ban on tax-exempt organizations' political involvement was adopted as an amendment by then-Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas, who became vice president under President John F. Kennedy and assumed the presidency upon Kennedy's assassination, to the Revenue Act of 1954.



SHOOTING RECALLED — Pastor Stephen Fugitt (left) of First Baptist Church in Norwood, Mo., and his wife Judith are helping church members cope in the aftermath of a Sunday morning shooting in July in which no one was injured but nerves were rattled. (BP photo courtesy of The Pathway)

Missouri church members reflect on recent worship service shooting

NORWOOD, Mo. (BP) — Days after churchgoers left their pews mid-sermon to tackle a gunman armed with a .357 magnum revolver, they returned to their seats at First Church in Norwood, Mo., for Bible study and to talk through the experience with chaplains.

Many were quiet at first, but by the end of the evening most of the 25 people present began to open up about the traumatic events of July 21 that left the congregation shaken but uninjured.

A man identified in court documents as Earnest J. Smith entered the church that Sunday morning and fired two shots — one into the ceiling and one into the floor between himself and the pastor — before being tackled and subdued.

The follow-up session opened with Psalm 46. Pastor Stephen Fugitt introduced the passage by reading what he'd written in his notes, "Just read the Scripture, no need to comment."

"God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble. Therefore we will not be afraid, though the earth trembles and the mountains topple into the depths of the seas, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with its turmoil."

The church broke into groups with five Missouri Baptist Convention disaster relief chaplains. They rehearsed the

"Pray that we can feel that church is a safe place again."

church member

First Church, Norwood, Mo.

order of events, recalling the doors at the back of the auditorium banging open and a gun blast long before anyone could figure out what was going on.

With their ears still ringing 72 hours later, they debated whether they'd heard two shots or three. A recording of the church service suggests there were just two shots, though the bullet that tore a ragged gash in the carpet fragmented and put two holes in the wall a foot to the left of where Fugitt was standing that day. They searched for the shot-through ceiling tile, eventually realizing it'd already been replaced.

They also thanked God that though there were several teenagers in the service that morning, most of the kids were in a different part of the church for children's church and didn't have to witness things firsthand. They praised the quick action of the five men who tackled the suspect.

They joked nervously about their jumpiness and a reluctance to sit with their backs facing the door. They also asked if there was any-

thing they could have done differently.

In this case, it appears the best possible scenario played out. People were frightened and a suspect is behind bars, but no one was injured beyond one church member who cut his shoulder on a chair as he wrestled with the gunman.

Mike Dedmon, a lay chaplain from Elk Creek Church in Hartsville, Mo., came to help. "The gentleman I spoke with was at first very nervous," Dedmon said, "but the longer we went the more he opened up and realized that God had used him last Sunday. I think he's starting to have peace about it."

Nancy Dedmon, Mike's wife, spoke with the wife and the mother of two men who wrestled the gun away from the suspect. "I think they're seeing that God had everyone in the right place at the right time," Nancy said.

"I saw some strength in these people," Mike said. "Strength that only God can give."

"I think they ministered to me just as much as I did to them," Nancy said.

Church members asked for continued prayer to recover from the shock of the situation, and also that parents who don't attend church themselves but allow their children to attend will continue to allow that. "Pray that we can feel that church is a safe place again," one woman said.

I am not a musician and on a scale of one to ten when it comes to musical ability, I am generally about a minus two. In fact, to tell you how bad it is, the other day I was walking through the office singing and they were about to call 911 because they thought that I was in pain. Now while I may not be able to sing or play an instrument, I do listen to music. I appreciate some music, and I try to be tolerant of just about all music. This article is about Futral's 81° Symphony. You may be familiar with Beethoven's Symphony 5 or some of the works of other great artists of years gone by, but this one is different.

It was August in Mississippi and on this particular day, I was up and heading out to get my morning walk in before 5 o'clock. The local news said that it was going to be hot and muggy, but then they gave the temperature before 5 o'clock and it was 81°. They went on to talk about the fact that our overnight lows were setting records for being high. Before any of the sunrises even began to penetrate the atmosphere, it was 81° and my kind of weather. So I headed out into the darkness.

They were right! It was warm, humid and a Mississippi summer morning. I had not walked more than a hundred yards when I began to hear unusual sounds in our neighborhood. Normally, I am listening for the birds' chirping, the squirrels' noises and to all of the wildlife waking up, but I heard none of that. I began to hear the clicking, whirling, moaning and groaning of one air conditioner after another. As I walked, it seemed as though every air



Futral's 81° Symphony

conditioner in the entire neighborhood was coming on or in the midst of struggling to pull the temperature down and maintain an inside atmosphere that was cool. With an 81° temperature and the sounds of air conditioners, I thought it sounded like an 81° Symphony.

The further I walked the more the sounds seemed to intensify. My mind started to drift off and think about all of the huge electric bills that were piling up, but I refused to go there. I listened to the symphony of the ACs and thought about what a wonderful blessing God had given us. What a world we live in that in the midst of incredibly warm temperatures, suffocating heat and humidity we are able to find places that are cool. I remember growing up in this state when our family did not

have an air conditioner. We did have one of those wonderful, modern, attic fans, but even then whether it was in the day or at night it was hot Mississippi weather. So the sounds I heard were as though a symphony was taking place among the air conditioners cooling off one family after another and providing music to my ears.

As I walked and increasingly got warmer and the symphony of coolers continued, my mind was strangely drawn to that wonderful verse in James' book that says, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17). I thought about how grateful I should be to live in a day with the technology that enables us to be cool when it is hot and to

be warm when it is cold. I found my heart focused directly on the Lord. One after another in every sound I heard, God was providing blessings for my life.

I just kept thinking about all of the things that I should be thankful for and that I may overlook and maybe I am not thankful for and possibly I even complain about. I thought about my work in a day and time when so many people are looking for work. I not only have a job, but I have a wonderful and meaningful job and work with the greatest people on earth. I thought about my health and the problems I do not have and the mobility that is mine. Whether it is getting in a car to go somewhere or getting out of the car and walking a great distance to get somewhere I am blessed. I thought about the mental clarity that God allows me to have to read, to think, to talk, to relate, to interact, to help, to react and to literally be involved in life. I thought about the capabilities that He has given me and at the same time the deficiencies that have been in my life that seem to strengthen me. God is good! Almost with every breath, well absolutely with every breath I am reminded that the next breath is also a gift from God.

So as I finished my early morning walk it was still dark, the sun had not come up, and the air conditioners were continuing their symphony. With joy in my heart I got ready to go out and face a Mississippi summer day with a heat index of over 100° with joy and delight.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

BRINK

cont. from p. 1

70 churches, Christian institutions, and businesses have been attacked, burned, or destroyed.

The attacks appeared to be planned, since most occurred nearly simultaneously across the country. Christianity Today reported, quoting one church leader in the town of Assuit as saying, "It had to be pre-planned. It happened [here] at the exact time the attacks happened in Cairo."

Among churches targeted was Beni Mazar Baptist Church in Minya, a city of 250,000 people that is 150 miles south of Cairo. It was attacked and burned to the ground. No casualties or injuries were reported, although the pastor and his family live on the premises.

First news of the attack came on Wednesday from Mounir Sobhy Yacoub Malaty, pastor of First Baptist Church in Cairo and a leader of Egypt's Baptist convention. At noon Malaty posted on his personal Facebook page, "Pray: Baptist Church in Beni Mazar, Minya, has been attacked."

Malaty quickly followed with an update, "Beni Mazar Baptist Church on fire." Later he posted a brief video showing the ransacked and burning remains of the church.

Months earlier, John Amin (not his real name), pastor of the Beni Mazar church, had said, "We live here at the church, so if someone attacks our church, they attack our home. The kids are afraid."

Many in the community around the church are afraid, Amin said, but he still had a vision to see the

church packed with those seeking Christ. "We want the community to see us and come and grow the church," he said.

A jovial man sometimes called the Egyptian Santa Claus, Amin has a broad smile that might hide the challenges he now faces, which are severe.

Minya reported the country's highest number of attacks against churches, totaling 14. One of Egypt's oldest Coptic Christian churches, the fourth-century Church of the Virgin Mary there, was torched and burned Wednesday. In addition, the Egypt Bi-

ble Society bookstore in Minya was destroyed.

Violence in Minya left 41 people dead, including six policemen. A separate attack on the Sinai peninsula over the weekend resulted in the deaths of 25 policemen.

On Thursday, a government spokesman described attacks on Christians as a "red line" and pledged that authorities would "respond forcefully" to any new attacks. Egypt's defense minister, Gen. Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, pledged that the army would pay to rebuild the churches that were attacked and destroyed during the protests.

BIBL i O C I P H E R

CLU SR HCGQ RK YCXX, RDCR, PDQL

NQXAX PCX BQRABLQU, RDQ YQKYQQ

ZOCUOV BQHQSEQU DSG: IKB RDQV

PQBBQ COO PCSRSLZ IKB DSG.

OATQ QSZDR: IKBRV

Clue: Z = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Psalm 8:1

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

August 22, 2013

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Christian Action
COMMISSION

CHURCH

**RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY**

THE CHURCH & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AT A CROSSROADS

When: October 28, 2013 - 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Where: First Baptist Church Jackson, Miss.
Christian Life Center Dining Room (2nd floor)

Registration: Register online at
www.MSpastorsConference2013.eventbrite.com
OR call 601-292-3329



Richard Land
President of Southern
Evangelical Seminary



Russell Moore
President of The
Ethics & Religious
Liberty Commission

AMD & SEMINARY EXTENSION DIRECTORS BREAKFAST

**October 29
7-8 a.m.
Baptist Building
Chapel
Jackson, MS**

For more information and registration contact Cathy
Taylor (P/LD), cwtaylor@mbcb.org or
1-800-748-1651, ext. 305.

BIVO/SMALL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING & MINISTERS WIVES MEETING & ACTS 1:8 BANQUET

OCTOBER 28:

Mississippi Council on Bivocational
Ministries meeting, Baptist Building Chapel,
3-4:45 p.m.

Bivo/Small Church Ministers/Wives Banquet,
FBC Jackson - 4:45 p.m.

BIVO/SMALL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING & MINISTERS/WIVES MEETING WILL RUN FROM
3:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. ACTS 1:8 BANQUET WILL RUN FROM 4:45 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

For registration and information contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. of the
MBCB at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305.

SAVE THE DATES!

Missionary Parents Fellowship

Dates: Friday, Sept. 20 - Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013

Time: Sept. 20, 2 p.m. - Sept. 21, 12:30 p.m.

Location: Garaywa Camp & Conference Center, Clinton

Mississippi Missionary Fellowship

Date: Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Location: Garaywa Camp & Conference Center, Clinton



For more information contact the
Mission Strategy office of the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
601-292-3231

UNLIMITED

Servants of the manifold grace of God 1 PETER 4:10

2013 Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions

GIVING GOAL: \$ 2,100,000

JANUARY BIBLE STUDY PREVIEW CLINICS



September 9, 2013: The Cleveland
September 10, 2013: Blue Mountain College, Blue
Mountain, Union Woodburn Hall, Room 108
September 11, 2013: Mississippi Baptist Convention
Board, Jackson, 4th Floor, Sky Room
September 12, 2013: William Carey University,
Hattiesburg, Kresge Room in the Thomas Business
Building
Registration: 9:30 - 9:45 am
Preview Study: 9:45 am - 10:00 am

No Cost

Sponsored by the MBCB Sunday School Department, 1-800-748-1651, ext 291, or E-mail: cday@mbcb.org

Ministers *Wives* Conference

Fellowship and Encouragement to Ministers' Wives



October 28, 2013

First Baptist Church, Jackson

1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Barbie Bassett

Contact Cathy Taylor in the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept.
for registration information. 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305, or
cwtaylor@mbcb.org

TOGETHER FOR CHRIST

September 24, 2013
Broadmoor Church, Madison

September 30, 2013
Harrisburg Church, Tupelo

PASTORS AND WORSHIP LEADERS
2013 WORKSHOPS

Please preregister so that we might prepare materials. For further information contact:
Alan Woodward, Pastor/Leadership Development Department, 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305,
or Slater Murphy Church, Wadley, 661-267-2677

GuideStone

Financial Resources
Do well. Do right.®



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Got disability? Good! Has your salary risen any in
the last 10 years? Be sure Guidestone knows your
current salary.

**For details, call Robin Nichols,
MBCB, 601-292-3226**

TRANSITIONAL PASTOR TRAINING

Dates: October 1, 2013
Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: MBCB, Sky Room
Cost: \$10 for Material

Led By:

Bruce Cappleman

Director, Church-Minister Relations
&

Alan Woodward

Director, Pastor/Leadership Development

Please make reservations by September 17, 2013, so that we might prepare materials.

Contact: Carol Taylor, Church-Minister Relations Department, 1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3227 or E-mail chtaylor@mbcb.org



Together for Christ One-Day Stewardship Revival



- Stewardship Bible Study
- Church Giving Analysis
- Inspirational Preaching
- Consultant-Led Training

For more information contact the Stewardship/CP Promotion Dept. at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 347.



Make Disciples As You Go



SPEAKER:
ED NEWTON

WIDECREST
METHODIST CHURCH
MADISON
SEPTEMBER 27-28

MUSIC:
DAVE HUNT



COLLEGE STUDENT CONFERENCE

FOR ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS
GET INFO ABOUT SUMMER MISSIONS

Contact your BSU Director or Church Minister to register or contact Collegiate Ministry @ 800.748.1651
\$8 Registration Fee

Sponsored by Collegiate Ministry and Baptist Student Union of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
A Ministry of the Cooperative Program



2013 FALL BIBLE DRILL RETREAT PREPARING FOR 2014 DRILLS

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center
Clinton, Miss.

September 27-28

For

Third through Twelfth Grade

Cost: \$35 registration plus lodging

Secure your registration packet from:

Debbie Brashier

Discipleship & Family Ministry

601-292-3284

1-800-748-1651

dbrashier@mbcb.org or

dheids@mbcb.org



Pray this day for...

August 23 - September 5, 2013

"The Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it..." Joshua 1:8

Pray for: **Mark & Karen Alexander**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples.

Pray for: **Arnold & Susie Austin**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through community & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard & Martha Beal**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through financial administration & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Laurie Bledsoe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through church planting.

Pray for a team of 14 from **Longview Heights BC, Olive Branch**, going to Ecuador 8/23-9/5, for medical missions.

Pray for: **James & Mary Adair**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting & church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Karen Brown**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through nursing.

Pray for: **Matthew Burks**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Pamela Carlton**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through theological education, church/home outreach evangelism.

Pray for: **Rebekah Clark**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through youth evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard & Wanda Clark**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through strategy coordination.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

2013 STATE

Senior ADULT RALLY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2013

RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON
(601-853-1090, EXT. 35)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE DISCIPLESHIP DEPARTMENT OF
THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD AT 601-292-3284

Church Library Ministry Annual State Meeting

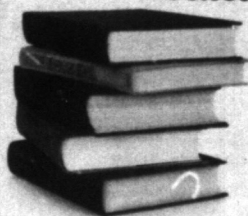
Fri., Oct 4, 2013 - Sat., Oct 5, 2013

October 4, 9:00 a.m. - October 5, 12:30 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Louisville

For more information on the meeting
and registration, contact the Communication

Services Ministry of the MBCB at
1-800-748-1651, ext. 378.



Mother/Daughter OVERNIGHT

Fri., October 18 - Sat., Oct. 19, 2013
5 p.m., Oct. 18 - 2 p.m., Oct. 19
Garaywa Camp & Conference Center

Mother/Daughter Overnight is a special time for mothers and daughters (grades 1 - 6) to share at Garaywa Camp & Conference Center. Participants will have an opportunity to meet and spend time with missionaries. Activities include worship, campfire, crafts and recreation. All overnights begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and conclude at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

For more information contact the
Mississippi WMU at 1-800-748-1651.



HOUSE TOPS

"Why" Comes Before "How"

Pastors/preachers get asked questions that are often difficult to answer on the spur of the moment. These questions can come from anyone and at any time. Recently I shared a message from Matthew 5:13 in a noon-day revival service about being the "salt of the earth" and the need to leave the comfort of our churches to engage a dark and decaying world. As we concluded the service a sweet, sincere lady asked, "How do you get us out of our pews and into the world to be the salt?" Gr-r-r question!

A gentleman once remarked that the English language is the most appropriate language for preaching because in English one can continue talking while trying to think of something to say. I attempted to answer her question, or at least I kept on talking while trying to think of something significant to say. I am not sure I ever adequately answered her.

That question has rolled over in my mind several times in the past two or three weeks. If she and I could have that conversation again

my answer would possibly be a bit different because the question is one that needs to be answered. She had, in her mind, moved beyond the "why" to the "how." Unless an individual is convinced of why something should be done, then the question of how to do it is irrelevant.

So why should you and I be actively involved in the spiritual warfare raging in our world today? Why should I battle for unborn babies who are being slaughtered on the abortionist's table? Why should I fight for the Biblical model of marriage and family? Why should I struggle with a society that is slowly stripping away our constitutional rights such as religious freedom?

We should get involved because it is the "command of Christ." He said to be the salt and light in a dark world filled with corruption. If God's commands cannot get a believer from the comfort of a church pew to the front lines of the battlefield, neither will the words of a preacher. Years ago as a child we would sing a little song with lyrics

such as, "I am in the Lord's army, marching in the infantry." I often wonder, "Where

are all those soldiers today who never hear nor obey the words of the Commanding Officer—Christ?"

Secondly, a Christian should be motivated when his/her conscience cries out that this action or activity is not right. When one reads the Bible or surveys history, stories and illustrations abound of

God's Spirit, along with the reasons previously given, do not get Christians out of the pews into the world being salt and light, our children and grandchildren will eventually be persecuted like those in China, Iran and other countries where Christianity is forbidden? Some will say, "That will never happen." Who would have thought fifty years ago our government would be funding organizations that engage in crushing babies' skulls and pulling them from the mother's womb? The Bible tells us that times will get darker and more difficult.

Therefore, the Christian Action Commission is constantly urging those of you who read these words to get involved in your community. Look for ways to become the salt and light where you live. Pay attention to the happenings around you as they relate to or infringe on your Christian beliefs. Set up meetings where you can come together as friends and neighbors to discuss and plan ways to improve your area of Mississippi. Get to know your elected officials and always voice your opinions.

The CAC often sends out information and alerts to inform you of what is happening and how you can be involved, but we must have your e-mail address. Join with us by going to www.ChristianAction.com and entering your email address at the bottom center of the home page or call 601-292-3329.

Porter serves as executive director-treasurer for the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission. He can be contacted at 601-292-3332 or jporter@christianaction.com.



with Jimmy
Porter

men and women who rose up against evil due to their consciences crying out "This is wrong." Have we become so callous that we are no longer moved by the moral decline of our society?

Also, the condition of our culture demands we get involved now. Our courts have ruled the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996 unconstitutional. The sad part is that our President and his administration encouraged the courts to strike down the law. In the state of Washington, the Attorney General filed suit against a florist for refusing to provide flowers for a same-sex couple wedding. On March 27, 2013, a federal judge in Virginia ruled that a Pennsylvania County board of supervisors violated the first amendment rights of an ACLU client by opening their board meeting with prayers that favored one set of religious beliefs over another. Each week there are new stories surfacing about attempts to suppress Judeo-Christian beliefs and practices, not in some foreign county but here at home in America.

Can we all agree that if

MS POSITIONS

HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH SEEKING PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER. Please send resumes to: Hebron Baptist Church 16 Hebron Church Road, SOSO, MS 39480 or Email resumes to kevin@brindsupply.com, or b_arwin24@yahoo.com.

MINISTER OF MUSIC, PART-TIME POSITION. Please send resume to: Music Committee C/O Eighth Avenue Baptist Church, 801 C St, Meridian, MS 39301.

GALLMAN BAPTIST CHURCH IN GALLMAN, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL WORSHIP LEADER to lead Sunday and Wednesday Worship activities. Please send resumes to gbsearchcommittee@outlook.com.

BI-VOCATIONAL YOUTH PASTOR CENTER BAPTIST CHURCH IN BLUE SPRINGS, MS. Please mail resume to: Center Baptist Church, c/o Bro. Mike Brazzel, 1701 CR 121, Blue Springs, MS 38828.

GOOD HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, NANIH WAIYA (NEAR LOUISVILLE) IS SEEKING A FULL TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO YOUTH&CHILDREN. Send resumes to 12956 Hwy 490 Louisville Ms 39339

MINISTER OF MUSIC PART TIME POSITION BAPTIST CHURCH IN HERNANDO, MISSISSIPPI. Please mail resume to: Parkway Baptist Church, 50 N. Parkway, Hernando, MS 38632. Or email to way_baptist@comcast.net

CLASSIFIEDS

KIMBALL CONSOLE PIANO excellent condition \$800 firm Meadville MS 601-384-1579.

BALDWIN C720T ORGAN FOR SALE IN SENATOBI, MISS. Money to go towards missions. For more information, please call Highland Baptist Church. 662-562-4287.

ROGERS 925 ELECTRIC ORGAN 77 stops 28 orch voices, 50-bank spk sys 102 Db, \$25,000 OBO. Call 409-659-3641 or go to www.fcbcaumont.org

SOLID MAHOGANY PEWS Large 15 ft long, \$150 ea, Small 12 ft long, \$100 ea. 409-659-3641

HANDBELLS WhiteChapel Bell Foundry of England, 3.5 octaves. \$20,000 OBO, 409-659-3641

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., OLD BIBLES REBOUND. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662 453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

WANT A GOOD GROUP OF CHRISTIAN WOMEN TO ENTERTAIN AT YOUR NEXT SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP? Call the Raggy Rags, a wash tub group. We sing, tell jokes, and play instruments. Call us at 601-857-0736. Accepting bookings for 2014.

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

GET AWAY AT BETSY'S LIL' CABINS call for a brochure 601-940-6841.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS: GULF SHORES & ORANGE BEACH, AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners. Lowest Prices on the Beach. www.gulfshorescondos.com, 205-556-0368, 205-752-1231, 251-752-2366.

WINDOW AND SCREEN SHOP — WINDOWS AND storm windows built to fit your opening. Plus new window screens and rescreen old screens. Call Tom Cook 601-709-4879.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss. phone 601-776-6617.

SEBREN'S SIDING www.sebrenhomeimprovement.com. Christian owned Don & Rita Sebren. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

GATLINBURG RENTALS: Cabin \$95/night and Condo \$75/night. Contact: 832 922 0401 or E-mail: pdw4760@att.net for information and booking.

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

CD or IRA
Maturing?

4-7%
First Year
GUARANTEED*



L.D.
O'Mire
Financial Services

1.800.844.3254



MSAudio LLC

Design & Integration of Professional Audio, Video, & Lighting
Church, Conference Room, School
Equipment sales, service and installation

Trooper Hales
info@msaudiollc.com

P.O. Box 1575
Clinton, MS 39060

Ph 601-923-9947
Fax 601-924-2880

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director
P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060-0027
(601) 922-2242
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

MAY 2013

MEMORIALS

R. W. Wilkinson
Edrith Miller Family
Ronnie Miller Family
Canoy Williams
Ms. Ann O. Jeffcoats
Mrs. Frances Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Walker Williamson
Jessie Williamson
Ms. Janice M. Thames
Amanda Woodrick
Ms. Carol C. Smith
Ann Woods
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Dean
Billie June Woods
The Jerry Bodie Family

Breanna Hinton
Gatesville BC
Willie Mae Hinton
Gatesville BC
Mr. Joe Hodges
Jerusalem BC
Mrs. Patricia Hudgins
Jerusalem BC
Mrs. Oma Knox
Mrs. Mary Freeman
Lydia Sunday School Class
Parkway BC
Mrs. Mary Malone
Pam May
Ms. Ernestine F. May
Thelma Merchant
Gatesville BC
Mothers & Fathers of FBC, Madison
WMU-Round Table, FBC Madison
Mothers of Jerusalem BC
Jerusalem BC
Ms. Julia Pittman
Adult III SSC, North Columbia BC
Mr. & Mrs. Max Sills
Mr. Clarence M. Shannon
Mr. Harold Sisney
Jerusalem BC
Mrs. Genelle Summers
Jerusalem BC
Irene Van Norman
Ms. Callie Causey
Mrs. Bessie White
Turkey Creek BC
Carol Wright
Gatesville BC

JUNE 2013

HONORS

Mr. Perry Atherton
Mrs. Virginia H. Atherton
Billy Bowie
Mr. & Mrs. Howard C. Ryals
Mrs. Courtney Campbell
Turkey Creek BC
Marie Crowder
Gatesville BC
Fathers of FBC Richton
FBC Richton
Mr. Edward Harris
Donald Harris & Debra Newman
Mr. Glyn Hester
Mrs. Johnnie Mae Black

Sylvia H. Alford
Mrs. Dora L. Murray

JUNE 2013

MEMORIALS

Mr. & Mrs. James E. Clark
Mr. Wyndle Alford
Cadaretta Water Assoc BOD
Larry Glen Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Fortenberry
Mrs. Myrl Armstrong
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean
Mrs. Grady Atkinson
Claudine Hindman
Larry Baird
Mr. & Mrs. R. N. Humphreys
Geneva Bardwell
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Calcote
Mrs. Lillie Mae Barlow
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth B. Walker
Wayne & Emma Tillman
Don Barnes
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel A. Smith
J. M. Barnett
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Newsom
Mr. Ronny Barrett
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Cothran
Lena Mae Berry
Georgetown BC
Mrs. Walterine Bickham
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel A. Smith
William Blake Bierbaum
Billy & Tanya Moore
Dutch Tillman Binion
Mr. & Mrs. Marion H. Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Hall
Gary Boggs
Mr. & Mrs. Brooks H. Polk, Jr.
Mrs. Virginia Bond
Mrs. Linda Campbell
Mandy Boswell
Ms. Sue B. Tarsi
Ann T. Boykin
Marsha Domino
Rose Beggs
Mrs. Ann Trimm Boykin
Ike & Florine Collins
Donnie & Phyllis Collins
Cissy & Johnny Smith
Judy & John Gill
Brenda & Lance Lowery
Mrs. Jerry Bracken
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts
Martha Jo Bradshaw
Deer Creek BC
Helen Isabel Branwell
Mr. Robert T. Jeffries
Mrs. Olline Brower
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Brower
Mrs. Louise Tipton Burch
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts
Mr. J. V. Parker
Bobbie Byrd
Ms. Joyce R. Hall
Mrs. Forrest Cagle
Steve Cagle
Mrs. Elma McWilliams
Cameron
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Pharr
Mrs. Doris Carlton
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Sherra Carpenter
Providence BC
Members

Mrs. Geraldine J. Carruth
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy B. Carruth & Family
Joel Cavallas
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse L. Craft
Herb Chappalear
Mr. Robert T. Jeffries
Bob Chipps
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Schilling
Mr. Rickie Clark
Rev. & Mrs. William B. Webb
Laura Cole
Mr. & Mrs. B. A. Anders
Joe Edd Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Williams
Lance Cowart
Billy & Tanya Moore
Dr. & Mrs. Tom Jeffcoat
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. Toney
Mr. & Mrs. Knead Branch
Mr. Harmon Cox
Mr. & Mrs. Donny Wilson & Family
Mrs. Doris Crawford
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Maggie Crenshaw
Hazel & Ray Garrett
Sue Crowley
Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Carter
Rev. Robert Cupstid
Ms. Cynthia A. Noll
Nita and Billy Daves
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Taylor
Mrs. Peggy E. Divine
Mr. David C. Briscoe
Jerry Dunaway
Mrs. Gail Kirkland
Mrs. Miriam Esch
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean
Mr. Bobby Farmer
Mrs. Edith M. Aldridge
Mrs. Ruth N. Ferrell
Mrs. Robert F. Neely, Jr.
Mr. Cecil Flemons
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean
Mr. David Forrester
Mrs. Charles A. Little
Pheba BC
E. E. Fortenberry
Mr. & Mrs. Glen D. Fortenberry
Cecil Fox
Mr. & Mrs. Fred R. Clark
Mr. Ken Fuller
Mrs. Barbara Fuller
Emmitt Gaddy
Mr. & Mrs. Donny Wilson & Family
Mrs. Juanita Hammond
Gallaspay
Mrs. Martha Ann Klaus
Jeannine Garner
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Pearce
Shane & Bonnie McGee
Juanita Gillaspay
Mr. & Mrs. Carl R. Waulery
Mrs. Agnes Gillespie
Ms. Claudia Heflin
Vera Gillis
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Foreman
Allen Gordon
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Brents



Thank you to 90 year old, Mrs. A. R. Barlow, of Calhoun, Georgia for her making quilts for our residents. Mrs. Barlow has Mississippi ties and sews quilts regularly for children in the care of The Baptist Children's Village and other ministries.

Mrs. Jean Graham
Dorcas Class, Clear Creek BC
Henry Grubbs
Mr. & Mrs. Elton J. Beard
Ms. Blanche B. Moore
Mrs. Grace Guthrie
Jerusalem BC
Cloteal Harper
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Trussell, III
Bobbie Hart
Richard, Nancy, Tony & Jan Rogers
Wayne Gaston Hebert Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Harrington
Mr. Douglas Holcomb
FBC Nicholson
Mrs. Juanita Holder
Rev. & Mrs. Jimmy Breland
Lula Holyfield
Mrs. Lee Jones
Wilmazelle Hunter
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Hughes
Cody Isig
Mr. & Mrs. M. E. Newton, Jr.
Danny Ross "D. R." & Linda Ingram
Harold, Kathy and Jessica Williams
Pauline James
Crossview BC
The Mark Fyke Family
Mrs. Willetta Stanley Jewell
Bonnie & Danny Jewell
Mrs. Dimple Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. George W. Bilbo
Mr. Jesse Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest L. Scruggs
Jo Johnson
Sue & Gary Fulton
Mrs. Betty Karr
Mr. & Mrs. John G. Brower
Mr. James Kemp
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne R.

Hall
Robert L. Kleinpeter
Mr. & Mrs. Marion H. Johnston
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Hall
Mrs. Lorraine Kreider
Mr. & Mrs. Perry E. Atherton
Rev. Frank Lay
Ms. Joyce R. Hall
Ember Lennep
Mrs. Dora L. Murray
Sam Leonard
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas, Jr.
Mr. Fleet Lofton
Mr. Glen C. Bardwell
Richard, Nancy, Tony & Jan Rogers
Walt Long
Burns Dirt Construction
Class of 1958
FBC Pickensville, Wm 3 SSC
Barbara Murrah
Tim Loveless
Ms. Nadine Loveless
Mona Lyon
Jean Holman
Helen Effinger
Ginger Magruder
Phyllis Smith
Gloria Compton
Ann Adele Edwards
Mary Felsner
Kay Diaz
Mrs. Debra Machell
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Dean
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Cothran
Mr. & Mrs. W. M. McElroy
Pauline Matthews
Herman & Sharon Dungan
Pearline L. Maxwell
Mrs. Gail Kirkland
Billy & Tanya Moore
Horace Maynard
Mr. & Mrs. Joe H. Cleveland

God Completes the Story • John 14:1-3; Revelation 21:1-4; 22:1-5, 12-14

God's story comes full circle. The perfect fellowship of God and humans in the Garden of Eden, destroyed by sin, will again become the experience of believers. God's people will live in His full presence for all eternity. This lesson can help you joyfully anticipate Christ's return and spending eternity with Jesus.

The Plan (John 14:1-3)

This passage occurs in the midst of Jesus' farewell discourse to His disciples the eve before He died on the cross. His mentioning of being betrayed by one of the disciples cast a pall over the conversation. These verses reveal the sharp differences between the disciples' somber shortsightedness and Jesus' eternal glimpse. Thus, Jesus began by telling His disciples, "Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me" (14:1; HCSB). Jesus comforted them by placing His "going away" in the broader context of God's plan. For God's people, God's Story ends in heaven, specifically in the "Father's house" (14:2). This house has many "dwelling places." The Greek term *monai* refers to rooms.

Jesus' mission did not involve His earthly ministry only; He was going to prepare an eternal place for His followers. The emphasis is on both preparation

and togetherness. One always prepares for special company! The verb rendered "prepare" means "to put or to keep in readiness" (14:2-3). Jesus is ready for us, but are we ready for Him?

Jesus' preparation carried the promise of a second coming. The purpose of His coming again is to take His followers to Himself so that where He is they may be also (14:3). Surely these words comforted His disciples to some degree, though subsequent verses make clear they did not understand fully.



Bible Studies for Life

with W. Wayne VanHorn

The Place (Rev. 21:1-4; 22:1-5)

Jesus mentioned a place (*topos*) He was preparing (John 14:2-3). In the Revelation, we have our fullest indication of what that place will be like. First, the place is described as "a new heaven and a new earth," untainted by sin like the first creation (Rev. 21:1). The notice, "the sea no longer existed" carried a double meaning (Rev. 21:1c). The "sea" represented separation

between creation and Creator (Rev. 4:6a). John also was separated from his church on Patmos when writing the Revelation. Additionally, "the sea" referred in other texts to the place of chaos and evil (Rev. 13:1). God's people would not be separated from Him in the new place neither would there be a source of evil.

The second description of the new place is as the Holy City, New Jerusalem, "as a bride adorned for her husband" (21:2). Third, the new place is where "God's dwelling is with humanity" (21:3a). The proper relationship will be established between God and His people (21:3b). Finally, the new place will lack tears, death, sorrow, crying, and pain (21:4).

Additional images are given in Revelation 21:5: the river of living water (22:1), the tree of life (22:2), the throne of God and the Lamb (22:3), the assurance of seeing God's face and being marked as His (22:4), and reigning in God's light of (22:5).

The Promise (Rev. 22:12-14)

When all is ready, Christ will come again for His people. The word "quickly" (*tachui*) is an adverb telling how He will come not when. The concept of retributive justice comes to the fore as Jesus will have a reward "to repay each according to what he has done" (22:12).

Jesus identified Himself as "the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" (22:13). All three phases affirm one thing; Jesus is the whole of God's Story. God's Story begins and ends with Jesus just as the Greek alphabet begins with Alpha and ends with Omega. He spoke the "First" word of creation and has the "Last" word on judgment. He is both the Beginning and the End of God's Story.

The last of the seven "blessings" in the Revelation occurs in 22:14. This final blessing has to do with salvation and the right to be considered an insider in God's presence. Only those eating from "the tree of life" will live eternally. I am reminded of a cross-stitch on the wall of a church member's home. It read, "If you have everything but Jesus, you have nothing; if you have nothing but Jesus, you have everything." The only thing I can add to that statement is "Amen!"

VanHorn is Dean of the Mississippi College School of Christian Studies and the Arts.

Is It Worth the Effort? • Ecclesiastes 11:1-5, 9-10; 12:13-14

Philosophers, both professional and amateur, have debated and written extensively about the meaning of human life. The more idealistic of these philosophies stress helping others and leaving the world "a better place." The more cynical emphasize enjoying life in terms of "anything goes" while one can. Others take a "spiritual" approach to life that is rooted in human speculation. However, God has revealed that the purpose and greatest goal of human life is to revere Him as God and to obey Him.

The Teacher offers four challenges that contrast with the advice of today. Give generously! The NEB translation reads, "Send your grain across the seas, and in time you will get a return." This is an ancient proverb which young Solomon had probably heard from his father, David. "Divide your merchandise among seven ventures, eight maybe, since you do not know what disasters may occur on earth." Diversify! Spread out your investments—venture out from the obvious into the unpredictable. Do you remember the little rhyme that expresses the opposite idea: "Get all you can. Can all you get. Then sit on the can?"

Disasters do come in the form of hurricanes and tornadoes such as have devastated our state only too recently. Many who lost all their belongings were quick to express thanks to God that they still had

most important thing—their lives. Those non-essential "things" can be rebuilt and replaced. Pursue life!

It is not necessary or wise to throw caution to the wind, but we need not be intimidated by or fearful of what we do not know or understand about the future. The work of God, the Maker of all things, is beyond our comprehension, but we must go about our work in faith trusting that any reasonable risk will be rewarded. Trust Him in everything—courageously!

The Teacher uses the words "light" and "sun" in describing life to the fullest and declares it is sweet and pleasant. Then, he gives four admonitions, each including a reason. First, rejoice for long life, but it may end in senility. Second, rejoice while you have your youth. Third, follow your heart in the normal, sensible pleasures of life exercising responsibility in choices made because God will judge those actions. And finally, remember your Creator. "Remember" means to act decisively on behalf of some-

one—here, the living God. Some have to find out on their own, "learning the hard way," that God is the essential element for a happy life. Young people benefit from having a strong religious faith during youth as protection for old age.

When I was in high school, our choral group learned classical music, many of them Christian anthems, for adjudication at the state music festival. One of our favorite anthems was the classic, "Remember Now Thy Creator." The words were true to scripture; therefore, as we learned

the words to the music, we were learning Ecclesiastes 12.

Verses 1-7 have been called an "Allegory of Old Age"

in which the deterioration of the aging body and its increasing limitations are described. "The keepers of the house" describes the trembling arms of the aged, and "strong men" represent the bent and tottery legs. The "grinders" have reference to the few teeth still in place, and the eyes are "those who look through the

windows," possibly suggesting sight as dimmed by cataracts. The "doors being shut" probably address the loss of hearing which cuts a person off from society. The "fading" may mean the low tone of the voice, and the "light sleep" of an older person may be disturbed by the song of a bird. "White blossoms of the almond tree" may reference white hair, and finally, he goes to his grave.

The silver cord held the golden bowl or light, and the wheel and pitcher represent water, both common biblical symbols of life. The body returns to the ground from where it came, and the spirit or breath of life returns to God who gave it. From the Teacher's perspective without "full knowledge," all is meaningless. The Truth is that without God, all of life is meaningless. A warning is given about reading some writings because of pagan literature that was becoming more available in Palestine. (Broadman Bible Commentary)

The epilogue points man to God who demands our reverence and obedience starting with accepting His Son as Savior and Lord. Paul said, "Christ in us..." which empowers us to "Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man." (NIV)

Duncan is a member of First Church, Starkville.

Explore the Bible

with Marion D. Duncan



PRAY

cont. from p. 1

and currently senior pastor of First Church, Norfolk, Va.

■ Tony Lambert, former senior pastor of Crossgates Church, Brandon, and currently senior pastor of Riverside Church in Denver, are also

members of the invitation team. ■ Michael Catt, a Pascagoula native, currently serving as senior pastor of Sherwood Church, Sherwood, Ga.

Floyd encourages pastors to register as early as possible due to a limited number of available rooms at the Hilton Dallas/Southlake Town Square, the site of the event. To

reserve a hotel room, call the hotel at (800) 445-8667 to receive the group rate. A \$75 stipend is available to offset hotel cost, financed by a special gift from a supporter whose name was not announced.

Registration is free by contacting Cross Church at (479) 751-4523, or gaylao@crosschurch.com.

VANDIVER

cont. from p. 2

and clothes closets.

Giving students the opportunity to serve is giving students the opportunity to not only be the church of tomorrow, but the church of today as well. BSU is not a church, but it is a ministry

of the local churches that shows how the Cooperative Program can work as churches work together through their BSU to reach the college campus for Christ.

Vandiver is BSU director at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville. He may be contacted at northeastbsu@hotmail.com.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Macedonia Church, Suqualena Community:** Revival, Aug. 25 - 28; 6:30 p.m. nightly; Bill Webb, speaker; Paul Bird, Sr., music; Virgil Walters, pastor.

► **Parkway Church, Scott Association:** Homecoming and revival, Aug. 25 - 28; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch and music with Terry Joe Terrell; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Reggie Williams, speaker; Bob Smith, pastor.

► **Didie Church, Hattiesburg:** Revival, Aug. 25 - 28; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Dan Lannier, speaker; Monty Bounds, music.

► **Double Springs Church, Maben:** Revival, Aug. 25 - 28; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Allen Dees, speaker; Robert Herring, music.

► **First Church, Hickory Flat:** 125th anniversary, Aug. 24 - 25; Sat., gospel singing, 6 p.m., with Charlie Cooper, Royce Wilder, Pam Simpson, Geeslin Brothers, and others; Sun., worship, 10:30 a.m.; Jim Futral, speaker; sanctuary choir, music.

► **Stewart Church, Montgomery Association:** Revival, Aug. 28 - Sept. 1; 7 p.m. nightly; Wade Stevens, speaker; Jason Carson, music; Jim Futral, Sun., 11 a.m.

► **Bethel Church, Copiah County:** Homecoming, Aug. 25; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Doug Warren, speaker; Tyson Windom, pastor; Brenda Nixon, music.

► **Holly Grove Church, Simpson County:** Homecoming, Aug. 25; singing, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon and annual cemetery meeting.

► **Star Church, Star:** Revival, Aug. 25 - 28; Sun., Sunday School, 9 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m.; lunch, 11:15 a.m.; discipleship training and children's celebration and supper, 5 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7th grade - college celebration and supper, 6 p.m.; worship, 7 p.m.; Gary Bogglin, speaker; Todd Ward, worship leader.

► **Siloam Church, Magee:** Homecoming, Aug. 25; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; David Farmer, speaker; Teri Little & Family, music; Hilmer Bynum, music director; Raymond Jeffcoat, pastor.

► **Moak's Creek Church, Summit:** 143rd homecoming, Aug. 25; worship, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch; Mike Alexander, speaker.

► **First Church, Kosciusko:** Revival, Aug. 25 - 28; Sun., worship, 10 a.m. with special recognitions, followed by barbecue lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Don Gann, speaker; Slater Murphy, music.

► **Canaan Church, Columbus:** 53rd anniversary, Aug. 25 - 28; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy W. Little, Jimmy Ray, Rick Babin, Jerry Robbins, and Eric Glasscock, speakers; Danny Avery, pastor.

► **Euclatubba Church, Sallio:** Homecoming, Aug. 25; special music with Ben and Sharon Brown, 10 a.m.; services, 11 a.m. with music by Jon and Heather Gilley, followed by dinner; Scotty Bland, speaker; Scott Witcher, pastor.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

IT'S TIME TO PRAY

NAMB



"He told them: 'The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.'"

October 2, 2013

Lead your church to join churches across North America on **Wednesday, October 2,** in praying Luke 10:2 for workers in God's harvest.

Learn more at namb.net/TenTwo